“Nagargalin Ragadiyangal” The Secret of the Nagas

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The Secret of the Nagas is the second book in Amish Tripathi’s *Shiva Trilogy* following the first book ***The Immortals of Meluha*.** In this book Shiva the protagonist embarks on a journey to unravel the mystery surrounding the Nagas an enigmatic and seemingly dangerous group of people with a serpent-like appearance. The novel is set in a mythological world based on ancient India and weaves together elements of mythology, philosophy and politics.

Main Characters:

- **Shiva**: The protagonist a warrior and leader.
- **Sati**: Shiva’s wife a powerful and wise figure.

Supporting Characters:

- **Nandi**: Shiva’s loyal companion.
- **Brahmaspati**: Shiva’s mentor.
- **Kartik**: Shiva’s son.

Antagonists:

- **Drupad**: Leader of the Nagas.
- **The Nagas**: Serpent-like beings original name **Ganesh** sati’s son.

Other Important Characters:

- **Kali**: sati's twin sister a fierce and strong character.
- **Parvateshwar**: A Meluhan general loyal to Shiva.
- **Daksha**: The ruler of Meluha.

Key Places:

- **Meluha**: A highly advanced civilization that plays a significant role in the story.
- **Vajra**: A strategic location where important battles occur.
- **Naga Kingdom**: A hidden and mysterious land where the serpent-like beings the Nagas reside.
- **Mount Mandar**: Another significant location tied to the plot's mysteries.

The story continues where *The Immortals of Meluha* left off. Shiv the legendary hero of Meluha rushes to save his wife Sati from the Naga who is blamed for the death of Shiva's friend Brahaspati. The Naga manages to escape but leaves behind a coin with strange markings. After consulting with Sati's father Daksha and King Dilipa of Ayodhya they discover that the coin belongs to King Chandraketu of Branga an eastern kingdom. Shiva and Sati travel to Kashi where a Branga community lives to learn more about the Nagas. They are accompanied by Shiva's General Parvateshwar his companions Nandi, Veerbhadra, Ayurvati the doctor, Bhagirath and Anandamayi the prince and princess of Ayodhya. In Kashi Parvateshwar is severely injured while trying to stop a riot among the Branga people. Bhagirath is given a medicine by Divodas the leader of the Branga which helps Parvateshwar recover. Ayurvati later reveals that the herbs used in the medicine can only be found in Panchavati the capital of the Nagas. Shiva speaks to Divodas and learns that Branga is suffering from a plague which led them to ally with the Nagas in exchange for help. Shiva decides to travel to Branga but Divodas informs him that it will take six months to prepare the ships needed for the journey.

During this time Sati gives birth to Kartik. When the journey to Branga finally begins Sati stays behind in Kashi to defend the villagers from a lion attack. As the villagers are on the brink of losing a group of Naga soldiers led by a man and a woman arrives to help. The woman reveals herself to be Kali Sati's twin sister who was rejected by their father Daksha due to her deformities including two extra functioning hands. The man reveals himself to be Ganesh Sati's first son whom she believed had died at birth. Because of his deformities which made his face resemble that of an elephant Daksha had rejected him and lied to Sati. Kali and Ganesh are brought back to Kashi by Sati to await Shiva's arrival.

In Branga Shiva learns that the only person who knows the recipe for the healing medicine is a bandit named Parashuram who lives alone in the jungle and kills anyone who comes near. Shiva and his companions defeat Parashuram who is shocked to learn that Shiva is the Neelkanth. In remorse Parashuram cuts off his left hand and gives the recipe to the Branga people before leaving for Kashi with Shiva. In Kashi Shiva is introduced to Kali and Ganesh and he realizes that Ganesh is the Naga who tried to kill Sati and was responsible for Brahaspati's death. Furious Shiva leaves Sati and takes up

residence with the Branga. One day while playing with Kartik in a park they are attacked by three lions and Ganesh is gravely injured while protecting Kartik. Shiva forgives him and with Sati they confront Daksha. Daksha admits to murdering Sati's first husband and rejecting Kali and Ganesh. He accuses Shiva of causing distrust between him and Sati who disgusted by Daksha's actions tells him to leave Kashi and return to Meluha.

Shiva decides to travel to Panchavati guided by Kali who knows the way through the Dandak Forest to the Naga capital. Along the way they are attacked by ships carrying the Daivi Astra powerful weapons once forbidden by Lord Rudra the supreme ruler of India. After narrowly escaping the attack and reaching Panchavati Shiva and Sati suspect Daksha is behind it. Kali takes Shiva to a school in the Naga capital where he believes the greatest secret of the Nagas is hidden. There Shiva is stunned to find Brahaspati alive and teaching a class.

Part 3: Vaayu Puthirar Vaaku…